

28 May 1986

JOINT STATEMENT BY
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WILLIAM J. CASEY
and
DIRECTOR OF NSA
LT. GEN. WILLIAM E. ODOM

The Government began prosecution of Ronald W. Pelton on charges of espionage yesterday, May 27, 1986. The trial of Mr. Pelton is expected to continue for approximately eight days' time and to include testimony from several Government officials.

Presentation of the Government's case will include release of certain classified information involving communications intelligence activities of the United States. While not intending any comment on this ongoing criminal prosecution, it should be understood that the decision to make use of this information in trial has been made by appropriate Government authorities after careful consideration of the demands of trial and the potential harm that release of this selected data may cause the national security. The information thus selected has been carefully chosen to balance these competing interests.

Those reporting on the trial should be cautioned against speculation and reporting details beyond the information actually released at trial. Such speculations and additional facts are not authorized disclosures and may cause substantial harm to the national security.

-- end --